



MIKE KEEN
... good facilities

Blues bid upsets Alliance

WYCOMBE'S surprise decision to apply for the Football League has certainly caused rumblings in the non-league soccer world.

The Alliance Premier League, who until now had boasted that they were the unofficial fifth division of the Football League, are reported to be dismayed by Wycombe's application.

The fact that Wanderers' announcement comes on top of an all Isthmian League F.A. Trophy final between Sutton and Bishops Cleeve, only serves to rub salt in the Alliance's wound.

The Isthmians on the other hand are predictably chuffed by Wycombe's exciting bid. League sec-

retary Alan Turvey expressed himself delighted and pointed out that teams wanting to go into the Football League do not have to join the Alliance first.

Cricket square

Mike Keen, who, as player and manager, experienced life in every division of the Football League, says that Wycombe's facilities would not disgrace the Fourth Division.

"There are several teams in the Fourth Division with worse grounds than Wycombe — for instance Rochdale. Even my old club Northampton Town

had a cricket square next door to the football pitch."

Mr Keen was not too concerned about the sloping pitch although he admitted it could be a problem. "Even Hillsborough has a slight slope on it — although not as steep as ours," he added.

Looking to the future, he said, "I think it would be a good thing for the town if in a period of say four to five years, we got into the Fourth Division."

Football League officials will be coming down to Loakes Park within the next three weeks to give their judgement on the facilities.

Disappointing end to an excellent season

WYCOMBE Wanderers, who were at one stage struggling in 21st position, ended their Berger Isthmian League Premier Division campaign in third spot.

They had a disappointing finish to the season on Saturday, when losing 3-2 at Bromley — only their second away defeat since New Year's Day.

Blues controlled the match for much of the first half and went ahead with a close range goal by Terry Scott. But their defence fell away after the break, allowing

Bromley to snatch the lead through Tony White and Phil Basey.

Terry Glynn levelled matters towards the end, but Butch Dunn lobbed a neat shot over Gary Lester to win the day for the Kent side.

Hillingdon Reserves 3, Wycombe Wanderers Reserves 0

Three bad back passes led to Wycombe Reserves slipping to a sad defeat in their last Suburban League game of the season. However, they enjoyed a fine first campaign in the league and seem set to finish in the top five of the North Division.

Wycombe's forwards were unable to get into any kind of rhythm and found themselves tightly marked by the opposition. They were awarded numerous free-kicks for fouls but failed to capitalise.

Hillingdon, on the other hand, were presented with three goals which they took gratefully. They went ahead after 25 minutes when intercepting a poor back pass. Their other two goals came in the 60th and 67th minutes.

WYCOMBE RESERVES: C. Way; T. Lee, G. Marshall (sub: G. Collier), A. Vircaus, M. Richardson, I. Rundle, J. Jacobs, N. Shrimpton (sub: K. Stansbridge), A. Hunt, P. West, G. Trill.

John joins Blues' tour

JOHN Delaney, the former Wycombe Wanderers captain and recent manager of Tring Town, has joined the Blues' tour party which leaves for a week in Italy on Sunday morning.

Delaney is named as one of the 15 players in the 24 man squad who will play two matches in between lying on the beach and visiting interesting places like Pisa which is nearby.

Wycombe's tour headquarters are at Marina di Pietrasanta — a small holiday resort just north of the large centre of Viareggio. Their first match will be against Pietrasanta — a semi-professional club in the Italian League Third Division — on Thursday.

Their other match will be against U.S. Ciocco. This team will be selected from sides taking part in a football festival in Il Ciocco, another holiday resort about 12 miles from Pietrasanta.

The team arrives back in Wycombe on Sunday, June 1. Blues manager, Mike Keen, is unable to join the party, so the tour manager is vice-chairman Brian Lee. Terry Scott is away in America, but most of Wycombe's squad are going for a holiday in the sun.

Full tour party: Officials — Gerry Cox, Bill Cleare, Bob Hart, Kevin Lacey, Geoff Sutton, Peter Swinburn, John Goldworthy, Staff — Brian Lee (manager), John Clinkard (physio). Players — Paul Birdseye, John Maskell, Chris Way, Ray Eaton, George Borg, Keith Mead, Steve Hardwick, John Delaney, Bob Dell, Paul Miles, Steve Long, Gary Toll, Tony Price, Gary Fowles, Tim Lee.